

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-14 MC-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 104136

P 291100Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2558

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0248

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI AO SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN CANBERRA AIRCRAFT IN ANGOLA

LISBON, PRETORIA, AND KINSHASA FOR DATT

1. CONGEN OFFICER HAS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, AND RELIABLE SOURCE AT HIGH COMMAND HAS CONFIRMED, PRESENCE OF 2 SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE CANBERRA BOMBERS, BASED OUT OF LUANDA.
2. ACCORDING SOURCE, PLANES ARE PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FOR OPERATIONS IN AREAS WHERE PORTUGUESE AIRCRAFT UNABLE COPE. WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY ADMITTED BY SOURCE, THIS PROBABLY REFERS TO OVERFLIGHTS OF ZAIRE AND CONGO (B).
3. THIS FIRST CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON OPERATIONAL MISSION IN ANGOLA. HOWEVER, FLIGHTS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY OCCURRED IN THE PAST, AT LEAST ALONG THE ZAMBIAN-ANGOLAN FRONTIER, AND IN BORDER REGION BETWEEN SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND ANGOLA.

4. AS OF SATURDAY, APRIL 27, THESE PLANES WERE STILL OPERATING
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OUT OF LUANDA.

5. COMMENT: DIFFICULT SAY WHAT ATTITUDE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL
TAKE TOWARDS THEIR PRESENCE HERE, BUT IN EVENT INCIDENT OCCURS
(I.E. OBSERVED OVERFLIGHT) ALONG ZAIRE OR CONGO (B) BORDERS,
COULD GREATLY EMBARRASS JUNTA AT MOMENT IT APPEARS TO BE SEEKING
TO GAIN FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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